

# The Panda Book Awards Shortlists 2016-2017

Compiled by the Panda Awards Steering Committee



## MATURE READERS (grades 9 – 12)

Anderson, M. T. *Symphony for the City of the Dead*. An account of how composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony rallied their fellow citizens during the Siege of Leningrad.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Carry On: The Rise and Fall of Simon Snow*. Simon Snow's girlfriend broke up with him, he's terrible at magic, his nemesis Baz is missing, and on top of all this he has threatening magical creatures to deal with. It's going to be a tough final year at the Watford School of Magicks.

Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. Eighteen-year-old Finn suffers from a disorder which means he can't distinguish between faces. When he is the only witness to the abduction of his classmate Roza, his disability makes it difficult for him to assist with the investigation—and only makes him more of an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town.

Sepetys, Ruta. *Salt to the Sea*. As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Shusterman, Neal. *Challenger Deep*. Caden, a high-achieving high school senior, starts descending into mental illness while his family and friends try to figure out what is wrong with him.

Stevenson, Noelle. *Nimona*. Lord Ballister Blackheart seeks to bring down the institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics with the aid of his new shapeshifting sidekick Nimona.

Van Wageningen, Maya. *Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek*. Unhappy with her social position at school, Maya Van Wageningen decides to conduct a social experiment: for one year, she will follow the advice of a 1950s popularity guide.

Yoon, Nicola. *Everything, everything*. Madeline, literally allergic to the outside world, never leaves her room. But when a new boy moves in next door, she finds a complicated love that challenges everything she's ever known.

Every school year, the Panda Steering Committee promotes the Panda Book Awards reading initiative and publicizes lists of highly recommended books for readers in international schools in China. The four reading categories are: Younger Readers (EC3-grade 2), Middle Readers (grades 3-5), Older Readers (grades 6-8), and Mature Readers (grades 9-12). Each list consists of eight to ten titles that span a wide range of genres. Students are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible and are invited to vote for their favorite book in the weeks after Chinese New Year.

The reading initiative is the responsibility of the Panda Steering Committee, a group of international librarians in China. These professionals volunteer to read, review and discuss book titles submitted by other librarians

or students. The goal of the Panda Book Awards initiative is to instill an enduring love of reading and to take students on an exciting reading adventure.

The Panda Book Awards initiative is now in its seventh year and its popularity has grown tremendously. During the first year, five international schools participated in voting. This year, over forty international schools joined the initiative, and over 5,700 students cast their votes.

In the fall, the Panda 2016-2017 books should be available at all participating schools. In the meantime, explore the hand-out and put the Panda titles on your summer reading list. Also visit the website <http://pandabookawards.wikispaces.com/> for more details on the Panda reading initiative.



# Shortlists 2016-2017

(Books are listed in alphabetical order by author)



## YOUNGER READERS (EC3 – grade 2)

Barney, Saltzberg. **Chengdu Could Not, Would Not, Fall Asleep.** High in the trees in the middle of the night, all of the pandas are sleeping except for Chengdu, who tries everything and still cannot fall asleep until he finds the perfect spot atop his brother, Yuan.

Blabey, Aaron. **Pig the Pug.** Pig is the greediest Pug in the world. He is bad-tempered, rude and he never, ever shares. One day, Pig's greed finally backfires and something unexpected happens to him. Will Pig the Pug learn his lesson at last? A hilarious picture book about learning to share.

Daywalt, Drew. **The Day the Crayons Came Home.** Companion book to: The Day the Crayons Quit. One day, Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of which has run away or been left behind, and all of which want to come home.

Ferry, Beth. **Stick & Stone.** Stick and Stone are both lonely until Pinecone's teasing causes one to stick up for the other, and a solid friendship is formed.

Gleeson, Libby. **The Cleo Stories 1: The Necklace and the Present.** Meet Cleo, a memorable character created by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood. Delightful, warm and irresistible, these stories show how a little girl with a big imagination can always find a way to have fun.

Kang, Anna. **You Are (Not) Small.** Two fuzzy creatures can't agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all!

Kobald, Jrena. **My Two Blankets.** A little girl nicknamed "Cartwheel" moves to a different country where she can her family can all be safe, but Cartwheel has a hard time adjusting to her new home.

Mattick, Lindsay. **Finding Winnie.** A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub which he rescued while on his way to care for horses during World War I. This real event became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Reynolds, Aaron. **Nerdy Birdy.** A picture book about a dorky bird who just wants to hang out with the cool birds.

Willerns, Mo. **Waiting Is Not Easy.** Piggie tells Gerald she has a surprise for him, but it is not there yet. Gerald must be patient, and it is very difficult!



## MIDDLE READERS (grades 3 – 5)

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The war that saved my life.** A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

Burgess, Matthew. **Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings.** An illustrated, brief overview of the life of E. E. Cummings.

Cheaney, J. B. **Somebody On This Bus Is Going to Be Famous.** During a torrential rainstorm, a school bus goes off the road. With the driver unconscious, it is up to her passengers to try to rescue each other and go for help.

Cottrell Boyce, Frank. **The Astounding Broccoli Boy.** After Rory inexplicably turns green, he is sent to be studied by scientists. To make matters worse, he is stuck with his nemesis, the school bully Grim. Everyone is baffled except for Rory, who believes he and Grim have become superheroes.

Harrold, A. F. **The Imaginary.** Rudge, an imaginary playmate, must find his real friend Amanda before he fades away to nothing. Unfortunately he is also being hunted by the only other person who can see him, the evil Mr. Bunting, who hunts—and possibly even eats—imaginary friends.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Sunny Side Up.** After her older brother starts acting strangely, Sunny Lewin is shipped off to Florida to spend the summer with her grandfather. Sunny is sure that she is the one to blame for the way her brother is acting. Most of all, she wants things to go back to the way they were before.

Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl.** A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Echo.** Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.

Selznick, Brian. **The Marvels.** Billy Marvel is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors which flourishes in London until 1900. Nearly a century later, Joseph Jarvis is captivated by the portraits and ghostly presences of the Marvel house.

Tashjian, Janet. **My Life as a Gamer.** Derek Fallon gets the chance of a lifetime when he is asked to test software for new video games, but he soon discovers that his dream job isn't all it's cracked up to be.



## OLDER READERS (grades 6 – 8)

Benjamin, All. **The Thing about Jellyfish.** Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson investigates the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for the death of her best friend.

Chmakova, Svetlana. **Awkward.** Penelope Torres just wants to fit in and avoid the mean kids at her new middle school.

When her art club goes to war with the science club, she finds she has a lot to learn about friendship.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **Fish in a Tree.** Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out that she still doesn't know how to read.

Landers, Melissa. **Starflight.** Former high school enemies Solara Brooks and Doran Spaulding must team up when they find themselves aboard a renegade spaceship.

Norris, Andrew. **Friends for Live.** Francis Meredith is a boy who is bullied for his interest in fashion and costuming. His life begins to change when he makes friends with Jessica and Andi, a ghost.

Oppe, Kenneth. **The Nest.** When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother, he thinks all he has to do is say yes. But yes may not mean what Steve thinks it means.

Stead, Rebecca. **Goodbye Stranger.** As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, Em, Tab, and a curious new friend, she finds the answers she has been seeking.

Tan, Shaun. **The Singing Bones.** This book leads readers through the tales of the Brothers Grimm accompanied by sculptures. Fuller descriptions of the tales are included in the back matter, along with suggestions of where to read complete retellings.